

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 18. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 18. In Figure 18, label "c" in the bar between numerals 0 and 1 is changed to label "a" to maintain a proper antecedent basis with the text of the specification and to agree with label "a" shown above it in the ink distribution display.

REMARKS

Claims 46-79 are presented for consideration. Claims 1-45 are cancelled. Claims 46-79 are new.

New claims 46-79 restate novel features of the present invention while removing elements that may have led to unintended ambiguity.

The new claims emphasize that a color reduction sequence in accord with the present invention consists of a two step process. The number of colors in the original image is first reduced to an intermediate number of colors, and then subjected to an entirely different color reduction routine to change the number of colors from the intermediate number to a final number. None of the cited prior art teach such a two-step color reduction routine.

The new claims also emphasized that the intermediate number of colors may be greater than, or lesser than, the number of printable colors. Consequently, the second color-changing step in the claimed color reduction routine may provide an up-conversion from the intermediate number or colors to the final number of colors, or provide a down-conversion from the intermediate number of colors to the final number of colors.

The determination of whether the number of printable colors is greater or smaller than the intermediate number is one parameter in the selection of the appropriate second color reduction routine implemented following the first color reduction routine.

The new claims further provide more precise definitions for the "printable colors". Depending of the mechanical limitations of a printer, the "printable colors" may refer either to the number of available inks (and color of the printing medium) or alternatively refer to a number of visually discernable colors obtainable by combining the number of available inks (and printing medium color) into pixels defined by multiple printable dots.

The new claims further explain how creation of color noise in a reduced image may be minimized when reducing an image and reducing the number of colors in the image. As is explained in the specification, when the number of colors and the size of an image are both reduced, the resultant image by manifest

streaks, or lines of color. This type of color noise may be avoided by reducing the size of the image prior to reducing the color in the image.

Finally, the new claims further explain that since the present invention is primarily intended for printing logo messages on receipt paper (used for recording purchase transactions), when a new logo image is captured, the present invention automatically reduces the size of the captured image to dimensions limited by the width of the receipt paper (i.e. the printing medium). This is done prior to any user-submitted requests. None of the cited prior art teach or suggest an automatic size reduction in a captured image as limited by the width of the printing medium.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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